

# The Northside Voice

Spring 2017 : Issue No. 6

## Employment Available through Construction Training Program

The Northside Development Group will be partnering with Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg Community College and the Upstate Workforce Board to offer a construction trades training and apprenticeship program. This program will offer training in various parts of construction, including framing, drywall, tile work, and other aspects of building. Participants will receive NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research) certification and also have the opportunity to enroll in an Apprenticeship program through Spartanburg Regional Hospital. Eligible participants can receive scholarships for the NCCER certification program and a paid Apprenticeship.

Employment opportunities are immediately available after graduation. Earning potential up to \$22/hour. NDG is currently taking applications for the certification and apprenticeship program. Please call NDG ASAP at 864-598-0097 to reserve your spot.

## Start ME

### Businesses access to Knowledge, Networks and Capital

The Northside Development Group in partnership with USC Upstate Business School is piloting an entrepreneurship accelerator program. It is based on a successful model in Atlanta. Entrepreneurship accelerator programs work with aspiring small-business owners in their early stage of development to grow their business and business plan.

Start:ME, the Atlanta model, began in 2013 and has helped more than 80 individuals kick-start their businesses. It develops a small business environment in communities by identifying promising local entrepreneurs, providing them with 14 weeks of business training, connecting them with a robust business network, and financing those with the most promising businesses. The George Dean Johnson Jr. College of Business and Economics at USC Upstate is a key partner in this effort providing support for the 14 weeks of training sessions and pairing mentors with business owners.

As of March, the program is entering week 8 with 13 entrepreneurs working diligently with 30 mentors on their businesses. At the end of the 14 week program Entrepreneurs will share their business services and products at a Customer Experience Event and Showcase at the Farmers Market at Harvest Park. The event will be from 8am-12pm on Saturday May 6th. For further information, check online at [www.spartanburgNDG.com](http://www.spartanburgNDG.com)



## Phase 1 Housing Development

Phase 1 will be a mixed income, mixed use housing and retail space developed by NDG in partnership with the Spartanburg Housing Authority and the Spartanburg Housing Partners development team. Plans currently place the development near VCOM, at the intersection of College and Howard street. The development will include about 90 mixed income rental housing units in one development. In addition a second mixed use mixed income housing and commercial space development project will include market and affordable housing and a commercial component for a clinic, retail and office space. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2017.



## Early Childhood Learning Center

Plans for construction of a new Early Learning Center in the Northside are currently underway. The project is being led by the Mary Black foundation along with NDG and other Northside Initiative partners.

The Early Learning Center will be constructed near Cleveland Academy of Leadership and will serve children age 6 weeks to 5 years old. They will offer full-day, full-year early learning for 160-200 children from diverse incomes. The center will focus on a holistic child development and learning program, using an evidence based curriculum with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) inspired classrooms.

A third party organization with experience in early learning will run the center and be in charge of a highly qualified and credentialed staff to provide quality education. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017, with plans to open late 2018.



\*early drafts, subject to change

# Neighborhood Clean Sweep and Community Update

On March 25th the City of Spartanburg and Northside Development Group will be hosting a Neighborhood Clean Sweep followed by a Community Update. The Clean Sweep will be from 8am-12pm, and include lawn care and trash clean up.

After the Clean Sweep there will be a Northside Initiative Community Update meeting from 12:30- 2pm. This will be a chance for residents and partners to hear about upcoming projects and give feedback on Northside efforts. (Lunch will be Provided). If you are interested in volunteering, receiving clean up services or coming to the Community meeting, please call our office at 864-598-0097 and ask for Carolyn.

## A Look at Northside's Artlet Project

Artist Eli Blasko was commissioned to create four Artlets: gazebo-like structures that can be used for creative gatherings such as concerts, poetry readings and exhibitions, for the Northside neighborhood. "It's been really exciting to see the forms start popping up, and to see the Apprentices start applying the building skills that they've been learning for the past few months. There were lots of smiling faces out there getting to use the... saws on a real project for the first time..." says Eli about his team of apprentices.

The local company Dellfrio, located in Northside, has donated palettes and plastic shipping straps that will be used in the construction. "It would be a seat made of materials gathered right here in the Northside, and reference the textile history with different styles of weaving." They are also hoping to use wooden cable reels as tables, a common site on front porches in the Northside and other mill villages. For more information visit Fremont Street Apts Annex, 600 Magnolia Street, or call Eli at 724-301-4920.

Join us on April 11th at 5pm for the Artlets official opening at Farley Street.



## New Housing on Brawley Street

We're delighted to announce that Phase 2 Brawley Street Housing Development is complete and the NDG is now working on Phase 3. Homes of Hope developed 8 new rental units to help meet the demands for housing in the Northside. These new mixed income rental units will serve families earning 50%-120% of the area median income. They expect to offer rents from \$575-\$895 for the 3 bedroom 2.5 bathroom units.

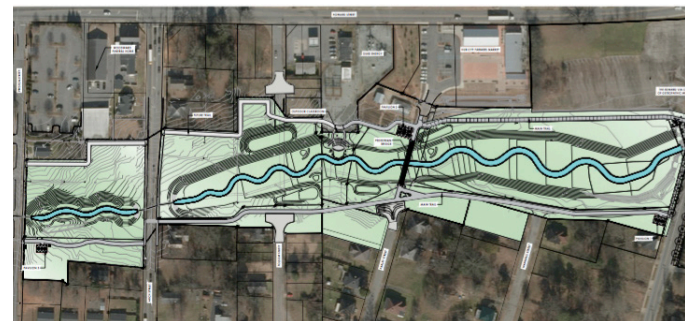
The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place on October 31st. Community leaders, partners, and residents gathered together to celebrate the new homes. The Chairman of the NDG and former mayor, Bill Barnet, attended the ceremony and spoke about progressive plans for the future of the Northside.

The Voyagers were also in attendance and expressed their joy after seeing changes within the community. Northside Residents will have the first choice to qualify for the new rental units. One of the first tenants was a former resident of Oakview Apartments. Homes of Hope will be managing the new properties and continuing to work with the NDG for Phase 3 of the project. Phase 3 is planned to create an additional 7 new housing units.



## Butterfly Creek Update

A new park and greenway is now under construction by the City of Spartanburg. The previously piped creek, named Butterfly Creek by students from Cleveland Academy during early planning, runs from College to Preston street behind Harvest Park and will be un-piped to run naturally again. The City has begun the engineering process, including the testing of water and soil to ensure a healthy play space for Northside residents. Once testing has completed construction will begin to bring new life to the area around the creek. The park will include walking and biking paths, as well as native plant life.



## Cleveland Heights Homeowner Repair Program Updates

The Northside's Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program (CNIP) provides opportunities for home repairs for homeowners. The program started on Howard and Leonard streets and has moved over to include most of the Cleveland Height Neighborhood, from the east side of Howard Street to the west side of Asheville highway. Northside Voyagers serve as CNIP Field Coordinators helping to connect with residents wishing to begin the application process and as a central point of contact to access information about the program.

## Habitat for Humanity Vernon St. Project

Habitat for Humanity of Spartanburg has joined forces with the Spartanburg Housing Authority and the Northside Development Group to construct two homes on Vernon Street. YouthBuild – a U.S. Department of Labor program – is administered locally through the Spartanburg Housing Authority and paves a path for 16-to-24-year-olds who are neither in school or employed. The program unleashes the positive energy of those young people as they receive education and on-site job skills training through the Spartanburg Housing Authority. YouthBuild is sponsoring, and providing volunteers, for both homes.

The homes, located at 589 and 581 Vernon Street, are in the finishing stages. Chiquette Johnson, the

mother of two children, is the partner family selected for 589 Vernon Street – the first fully handicap accessible home built by Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Johnson's 3-year-old son has 1p36 Deletion Syndrome, a genetic condition in which a small amount of genetic material is missing and causes birth defects, minor changes in physical appearance and intellectual disabilities. Ms. Johnson said the barrier-free home will enable her to raise her children in a safe, handicap-accessible home.

The second home, 581 Vernon Street, is Habitat for Humanity's first four bedroom home. Flooring has been installed and landscaping will be underway soon. Both homes will be completed by the end of March.



589 and 581 Vernon St.



## **C** In The Community

### **MLK Day of Service**

By: Kaycia Best

Quotes and figures adapted from an article written by Daniel J. Gross, originally published on [goupstate.com](http://goupstate.com) on 1/16/2017

On January 16th 330 volunteers worked throughout Spartanburg on 20 different projects to celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. A group of volunteers from Converse Women's college and other sources in Spartanburg worked in the Northside to paint two homes in the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program. As Phoenix Miller (one of the homeowners) said in the Herald Journal "... It's heartwarming to have friends come out. I feel like they're friends because they're in my home and they're doing a service. I'm just really grateful."



### **Oakview**

You may have noticed the demolition of Oakview Apartments at the corner of Howard and Preston. As part of the Northside Redevelopment Plan, the Oakview Apartments have been identified as the future site for the new Dr. TK Gregg Community Center. The City began demolition of the property on Wednesday, January 18th.

In December 2015 the Northside Voyagers and NDG team members spent several days at Oakview Apartments, hosting informational meetings and working with residents to define what support they will need to move forward. Throughout 2016 residents worked with Kesa

Whitner, NDG's Case Manager, and the case management staff at the Spartanburg Housing Authority to identify a new housing option using their Housing Choice Voucher, as well as developing a successful family relocation plan that met their short and long-term goals. As a result of these efforts, all previous Oakview residents were successfully relocated to new housing options. Nine families remained in the Northside and several others moved to new areas in Spartanburg. The NDG stays in contact with residents on an ongoing basis. NDG will continue to prioritize former Oakview residents when new housing developments becomes available.

## **S** Community Partners Spotlight

### **Spartanburg Community College Northside Scholarship**

**\$25,000/year for 5 years scholarships**

If you are a high school student, recent high school graduate or adult currently living in the Northside Community, you can now attend college or train for a career tuition-free at Spartanburg Community College (SCC)! The scholarship program is still accepting applications for the upcoming academic semester. For more information, please contact Northside Development Group Case Manager, Kesa Whitner to set up an appointment.

### **The Bridge at Green Street**

The Bridge at Green Street is located at the old Green Street Baptist Church at 446 Brawley. Among other programs, they kicked off their after school program on January 31st. Kids from Cleveland Academy of Leadership are now attending the program on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons where they have homework help, fun and food! Renovations of the church will begin later in 2017, with more programs to follow.

### **Christmas In Action 20th Annual Spring ReBuild**

Join Christmas in Action in celebrating 20 years of service for their 20th Annual Christmas In Action ReBuild Day planned for Saturday, April 22, 2017! This day brings out hundreds of volunteers to help our fellow neighbor as we work on homes in the City of Spartanburg. For more information, please contact the Christmas in Action office at 864-576-7101 or email Liz Evans at [levans@ciaspartanburg.org](mailto:levans@ciaspartanburg.org). Deadline for TEAM sign-up is March 14, 2017.

### **Harvest Park**

Don't forget that the Monarch Café's has groceries and accepts SNAP benefits! Be sure to stay up-to-date on events sponsored by The Butterfly Foundation. Check their website for more information on upcoming events: <http://www.butterfly-sc.com/events.html>.

### **Hope Ministry**

HOPE Ministries opens at 414 Brawley Street. We welcome Shawn Parker and Hope Ministries to the Northside.

## **C** Changes at NDG

### **Thank you Angela Walker**

In January NDG said a farewell to Angela Walker, the Northside Development Group's first Executive Assistant Office Director. Angela started working with the Northside very early in its development, while Curt McPhail was leading the effort. Through her support NDG and the Northside Voyagers have been able to grow and thrive into the successful initiatives they are today.

Angela's last official day was January 31st, with a farewell party on January 25th, and she plans to start her own bakery called "Angelic Delights". We may not see her daily, but she will always be a friend and honorary Voyager of the Northside!



## V From The Voyagers

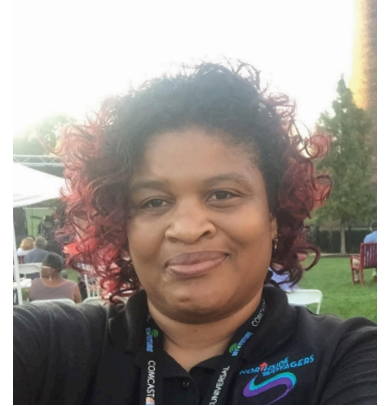
### Voyager Spotlight: Wanda Cheeks

Wanda Cheeks moved to the Northside 10 years ago as part of the Spartanburg Housing Authority's (SHA) homeownership program adjacent to Victoria Gardens. She spent one year as a resident of Cammie Claggett Courts, a past Housing Authority Community that is being redeveloped. Wanda views her time at Cammie Claggett as a positive experience, and a stepping stone to get where she is today.

In addition to owning a home in the Northside, Wanda is also a Recreation Coordinator at Northwest Community Center, the closest center to the Northside community, and an active participant in many Northside projects. Right now Wanda is utilizing the SCC scholarship program to take classes in entrepreneurship, as well as participating in the START: ME small business development pilot program. She hopes to develop and execute a business plan to open a natural hair salon in the Northside.

Wanda is a recipient of the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Improvement Program, and also volunteers as a Field Coordinator. She has received repairs, and helps her neighbors better understand the program and gather all of the documentation they need to apply. She sees the program as an educational opportunity to learn about being a better homeowner, as well as helping her neighbors. She knows both sides of the coin: being a learner and an educator, and hopes to empower her neighbors to pass on the skills and knowledge she has gained through the program.

As a member of the Voyagers, Wanda thinks that the Voyagers are each a piece of a very important puzzle when it comes to the improvements in the Northside Community. They may not each be at every event, but the presence of one Voyager lets the community know that the Voyager team is representing their community 24/7.



## P Our Partners



## Upcoming Events

**Monarch Café** - Open Daily at 498 Howard Street. See website for events.

**Northside Advisory Committee Meetings** - May 17th, 8:30am and July 19th, 8:30am

**Northside Neighborhood Association Meeting** - Second Thursday of every month at 6pm at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership. April 13th, 2017, May 11th, 2017, June 8th, 2017.

**Neighborhood Clean Sweep and Northside Initiative Community Update Meeting** - March 25th

**Free Tax preparation at NDG office** - March 29th, 11am-4pm

**Arlet Opening** - Tuesday, April 11th at 5pm at 297 Farley Street

**The HUB City Farmers Market Spring Opening** - April 1st 8am-12pm. Includes cooking demonstration, activities for kids, live music, and health screenings.

**Start ME Entrepreneur Showcase** - May 6th 8am-12pm at Harvest Park (if rain, will be rescheduled for May 13th)

**Health Care Employment Job Fair** - May 12, 10:30AM -12:30PM at Harvest Park.



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